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NORTHWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my first Annual Report, being a report on the Health of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1939. In view of the increasing work in the Public Health Departments of Local Authorities and the need for strict economy in the use of paper, the Minister of Health in his Circular No. 2067 (19th July, 1940) has asked that the report be confined to essential and urgent matters which have arisen during the year.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	..	..	..	..	..	57,547 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's estimate of						
(a) population mid-1939 appropriate to the calculation of Birth Rates	..	..	..	..	..	29,020.
(b) population appropriate to the calculation of Death Rates	..	..	..	..	..	29,620.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939)	..	..	..	..	..	8,633.
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	£148,700.
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£583.

The incidence of unemployment is very low and in most industries there is a shortage of labour.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

Live Births	(Legitimate	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 15.67.	
	(Illegitimate	442	234	208		
		13	6	7		
Stillbirths	..	..	16	5	11	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. 33.9.
Deaths	..	..	326	166	160	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 11.00 After adjustment by the Comparability Factor .. 10.78.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	Nil.	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	Nil.	-
Total	..	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-			
All infants per 1,000 live births	live		48.14
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate/births			49.55
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	52
" " Measles (all ages)	..	..	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	2
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	2

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1939
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

	M.	F.	Ttl.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever..	-	-	-
2. Measles ..	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever ..	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough ..	1	1	2
5. Diphtheria ..	-	1	1
6. Influenza..	3	12	15
7. Encephalitis lethargica ..	-	-	-
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	-	-	-
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	4	2	6
10. Other Tubercular Diseases ..	2	1	3
11. Syphilis ..	1	-	1
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes dorsalis, etc.	-	-	-
13. Cancer ..	25	27	52
14. Diabetes ..	6	1	7
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage etc. ..	5	8	13
16. Heart Disease ..	38	41	79
17. Aneurysm ..	-	-	-
18. Other Circulatory Diseases ..	8	13	21
19. Bronchitis ..	6	1	7
20. Pneumonia (all forms) ..	7	8	15
21. Other Respiratory Diseases ..	3	1	4
22. Peptic Ulcer ..	2	-	2
23. Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs. of age)	1	1	2
24. Appendicitis ..	1	1	2
25. Cirrhosis of the Liver ..	1	-	1
26. Other Diseases of the Liver ..	1	1	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases ..	4	3	7
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ..	7	8	15
29. Puerperal Sepsis ..	-	-	-
30. Other Puerperal Diseases ..	-	-	-
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Births, etc. ..	9	5	14
32. Senility ..	4	5	9
33. Suicide ..	2	-	2
34. Other Deaths from Violence ..	11	4	15
35. Other defined Diseases ..	14	14	28
36. Ill-defined or Unknown ..	-	1	1
	166	160	326

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no extension of these services during the year. Details of the services available will be found in last year's report.

SECTION C.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - The water supplies of the area were sampled on 40 occasions for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. Unsatisfactory reports were received on the Marston and Wincham supply and on the wells serving Rushton and Utkinton. Reports on the other samples show that the remainder of the District has a supply of satisfactory quality.

The supply of water to Marston and Wincham from the Council's waterworks at Ashton-by-Budworth was discontinued and a main laid to provide a supply from the Northwich Urban District Council's main at Lostock Gralam. It has not yet been found possible to provide a satisfactory supply for the parishes of Rushton and Utkinton and this is a matter for early consideration.

Samples were taken from the Eddisbury borehole and the reports indicate that this water will provide an ideal supply.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The scheme for sewerage the parish of Cuddington and providing sewage disposal works was completed during the year. The work of connecting individual properties to the sewer proceeds satisfactorily.

The parishes of Rushton, Utkinton, Delamere, Oakmere, Wincham, Comberbach and Weaverham are in need of improved sewerage facilities and sewage disposal works.

Public Cleansing.

The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year. There was no extension of this service to other parishes in the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SANITARY OFFICERS' (OUTSIDE LONDON) REGULATIONS,
1935. ARTICLE 27 (18)
Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued.

Nature of Inspections made.	Number	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
		Issued	Complied with	Issued	Complied with
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspection)	219	10	5	-	-
2. Dwelling Houses (Overcrowding)	11	-	-	-	-
3. Moveable Dwellings	10	-	-	-	-
4. Sanitary Accommodation to Dwellings	60	-	-	-	-
5. Drainage, Septic Tanks and Cesspools	176	37	33	-	-
6. Ditches and Water-courses	75	14	6	-	-
7. Offensive Accumulations	-	-	-	-	-
8. Keeping of Animals	2	-	-	-	-
9. Provision of Ashbins	38	19	19	-	-
10. Supervision of Refuse Collection	197	-	-	-	-
11. Supervision of Refuse Tips	124	-	-	-	-

Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued
(continued)

Nature of Inspections made.	Number	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
		Issued	Complied with	Issued	Complied with
12. Slaughterhouses	37	1	1	-	-
13. Bakehouses and other places where food is prepared	-	-	-	-	-
14. Dairies and Cowsheds	59	1	1	-	-
15. Factories etc.	20	1	1	-	-
16. Protection and Sampling of Water Supplies	51	-	-	-	-
17. Canal Boats	7	-	-	-	-
18. Infectious Diseases, Investigations and Disinfections	246	-	-	-	-
19. Schools, Inspection and Disinfection	35	-	-	-	-
20. Disinfestation of Premises	16	1	1	-	-
21. Deratisation of Premises	7	-	-	-	-
22. Smoke observations	7	1	1	-	-
23. Miscellaneous	15	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1,412	85	68	-	-

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	14	1	-
Factories without mechanical power	6	-	-
Other premises	-	-	-
Totals	20	1	-

Defects found in Factories:-

Particulars	Number of Defects		Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness ..	1	1	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	-	-	-	-
Ineffective ventilation (S.4) ..	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) (Insufficient Unsuitable or defective. Not separate for sexes)	1	1	-	-
Other offences ..	2	2	-	-
Total	4	4	-	-

Outworkers: There are no outworkers in this district.

SECTION D.HOUSING.

Activity under this heading was seriously hampered by the precedence given to Air Raid Precautions work and to the lack of accommodation for the persons living in houses which are already under Demolition Orders.

There was no formal action taken under the Housing Acts and no houses were erected by the Council during the year.

11 houses were demolished during the year, 7 as a result of formal action in 1938 and 4 by informal action.

SECTION E.FOOD AND MEAT INSPECTION.

- (a) Milk - During the course of the year 5 samples of milk were submitted to the Laboratory for tests of cleanliness; they were all reported upon as satisfactory. This figure of 5 may appear very small but it has to be borne in mind that milk produced in the Rural District is frequently sampled by Inspectors in the Northwich Urban District and the information gained thereby is always passed on to the Rural Inspectors for appropriate action.
- (b) Meat - At the close of the year there were 25 slaughterhouses on the register, 7 being registered and 18 subject to triennial licence. Two licences have been renewed during the year.

Meat surrendered as being unfit for human consumption was as follows:-

Beasts	-	13 whole carcasses and organs
		18 pairs lungs
		5 heads
Swine	-	14 heads
		10 plucks
Sheep	-	7 livers

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, 73 slaughtermen hold licences to slaughter. During the year the Council adopted Section I of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, as from the 1st October, making it compulsory for the mechanical stunning of sheep, ewes, wethers and rams.

Twenty-two beasts carcasses were examined in connection with the operation of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938: ten carcasses were passed less offals and twelve carcasses and offals condemned. The meat affected was surrendered in all cases and the figures are included in those given above.

The Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Act notified 38 suspected cases of Anthrax none of which were confirmed by the veterinary surgeons. In one case proceedings were taken by the police against the owner of an affected carcass for non-notification and against a butcher who did unlawfully cut the skin of a suspected carcass.

- (c) The routine examination of other foods and the premises in which they are prepared has been continued during the year.

SECTION F.PREVELANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.(1) Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

By regulations dated October 23rd, 1939, the Minister of Health made Measles and Whooping Cough notifiable diseases and all Medical Practitioners in the District have been informed of the Regulations and supplied with forms of notification.

In July the Council decided upon a Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme to cover children between the ages of 1-14 years living in their area. The details of the Scheme were being worked out but with the outbreak of war and the pressure of other work action had to be deferred.

There is, however, a stock of Diphtheria Prophylactics provided by the Council which is available free of charge to Local Practitioners for the purpose of immunising any children who apply direct to them for the protective treatment.

As to the general incidence of Infectious Diseases for 1939, the arrival of 3,050 evacuated children and the billeting of troops in the District did not seriously affect the number of Infectious Diseases Notifications received. One outbreak of Diphtheria, which involved about 30 per cent of all the children at a Nursery School evacuated into the District from Salford, died out with improved management of the Home and with the removal to Hospital of a child who was found to be harbouring virulent Diphtheria organisms in sores on her scalp.

Only two of the large number of evacuated children received into ordinary billets in the district needed to be removed to the local Fever Hospital during 1939.

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number Submtd.	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	99	10	89
Bacillus typhosus, etc.	4	-	4

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis),
during the Year 1939.

Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	..	..		75	71	-
Diphtheria	..	..		21	21	1
Enteric Fever	..	..		1	1	-
Pneumonia	..	..		17	-	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..		2	-	-
Erysipelas	..	..		4	-	-
Measles	..	..		2	-	-
Whooping Cough	..	..		3	-	2

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

It is gratifying to report a considerable decrease in the number of new cases added to the register during the year (28 as compared with 45 in 1938). The following table details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.								
New Cases and Mortality during 1939.								
Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resptry.		Respiratory		Non-Resptry.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
5 - 15 "	1	1	1	3	-	-	1	-
15 - 25 "	2	3	2	2	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	2	-	-	1	1	2	-	-
35 - 45 "	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
45 - 55 "	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	11	7	4	6	4	2	2	1

Number of patients on register at 31.12.38 - 179.
 " " " " " " 31.12.39 - 183.

41 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year; six being reported on as positive.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases including Tuberculosis was continued; all the schools in the District were disinfected twice during the year and in addition all the buildings during the evacuation of the civil population in September were disinfected before re-use.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I value and appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER.

Medical Officer of Health.

17th October, 1940.

WHITEHALL,
 HARTFORD,
 CHESHIRE

